

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5 1. A voice communication system configured for routing calls from multiple users to circuit switched or packet switched resources, the system comprising:

a hub in communication with at least one circuit switched channel, at least one packet switched channel, and a plurality of user devices;

a controller operable to select one of the circuit switched channel and the packet switched channel for connection with one of the user devices; and

10 a routing device operable to route the call from the user device to the selected channel.

15 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to select the circuit switched channel if available.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to select the channel based on cost of the call.

20 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to select the channel based on a status of a user placing the call.

5. The system of claim 1 further comprising a digital subscriber line operating as a transmission media for the circuit switched channel and the packet switched channel.

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6. The system of claim 5 wherein the digital subscriber line is an XDSL.

7. The system of claim 1 further comprising the plurality of user devices.

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8. The system of claim 7 wherein said plurality of user devices comprises computers and telephones.

9. The system of claim 7 wherein at least one of the user devices is a wireless device.

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10. The system of claim 7 wherein at least one of said plurality of user devices is configured to utilize voice over Internet protocol.

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11. The system of claim 1 wherein the controller is operable to dynamically switch between the packet switched and the circuit switched channel.

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12. A voice communication system comprising:

a hub operable to provide circuit switched resources and packet switched resources to a plurality of user devices in communication with the hub to connect a user with a telephone network;

means for selecting one of the circuit switched and the packet switched resources for connection with one of the user devices; and

means for routing a call from the user device to the selected resource.

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Sup A?

13. A method of completing a voice connection, comprising

receiving a call request at a communication system coupled to at least one circuit switched channel and at least one packet switched channel;

selecting one of the circuit switched channel and the packet switched channel to connect the call with a telephone network; and

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establishing a voice channel with the telephone network over the selected channel.

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14. The method of claim 13 wherein selecting one of the circuit switched channel and the packet switched channel comprises selecting the circuit switched channel if available.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein establishing a voice channel over the packet switched channel comprises utilizing voice over Internet protocol.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein selecting one of the circuit switched channel and the packet switched channel comprises selecting the channel based on cost of the call.

17. The method of claim 13 wherein selecting one of the circuit switched channel and the packet switched channel comprises selecting the channel based on a status of the user.

18. The method of claim 13 further comprising notifying a user when a circuit switched channel becomes available.

19. The method of claim 13 wherein receiving a call request comprises receiving a call request from a computer.

20. The method of claim 13 wherein receiving a call request comprises receiving a call request from a telephone.

21. The method of claim 13 wherein receiving a call request comprises receiving a call request from a wireless device.

22. The method of claim 13 further comprising switching from the selected channel to the other of the circuit switched channel and the packet switched channel.

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